



**U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response
Federal COVID-19 Vaccination Sites
Frequently Asked Questions**

In recognition of federal government mission and operational needs, coupled with greater vaccine availability, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) will operate two COVID-19 vaccination sites. One site is located in Gaithersburg, Maryland, and a second federal vaccination site is located in Washington, DC.

Which federal employees are eligible to receive a vaccine at the federal vaccination site?

The vaccine is being administered to federal essential critical infrastructure workers who have been identified by their department or agency based on job duties and CISA's Guidance on the Essential Critical Infrastructure Workforce: Ensuring Community and National Resilience in COVID-19 Response. All other federal employees should seek vaccination through their state and local jurisdictions' vaccination programs.

If an employee receives a vaccine through their state or local jurisdiction, they should decline the invitation to schedule at the federal vaccination site and proceed with vaccination through their jurisdiction. If an employee has already received their first dose of the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine at another location, the employee should get their second dose at the same location. This will ensure correct dosage timing and access to the correct vaccine manufacturer.

How do I schedule an appointment at the federal vaccination site?

Federal employees identified by their agency as eligible for vaccination will automatically receive an email invitation to schedule their vaccine. Email notifications began the week of March 29, 2021, and will continue on a rolling basis over the course of the vaccination initiative.

HHS is using [CDC's Vaccine Administration Management System \(VAMS\)](#) to schedule all appointments. Federal employees will create their own VAMS account and follow instructions for two-factor authentication. Employees will then be able to select the federal vaccine site and register for an appointment. When creating an account and registering for an appointment, use the same email address where you received the VAMS invitation. Additional instructions on how to use VAMS to schedule your appointment will be provided in the email invitation.

What if I'm eligible but did not receive an invitation to register for a vaccine appointment?

If you believe you qualify for a vaccine but have not received an email, please contact your first-line supervisor. Invitation emails are autogenerated and come from vams@cdc.gov; two-factor authentication emails will come from no-reply@mail.vams.cdc.gov or no-reply@envelope.mail.vams.cdc.gov. Please check your junk/spam folders.

Are federal contractors eligible to receive a vaccine at the federal vaccination sites?

Federal departments and agencies determine whether their federal contractors are essential critical infrastructure workers eligible for vaccination through this initiative.

Are federal employees' immediate family members eligible for vaccination at the federal sites?

Only federal employees and contractors who received an invitation are eligible to receive a COVID-19 vaccine at the federal vaccination sites. Please do not bring children or other non-eligible adults to your appointment. Childcare services are not available at either vaccination site.

Where are the federal vaccination sites located?

HHS is operating two federal vaccination sites. The first federal vaccination site is located at the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Campus, the clinic entrance is located near 409 Muddy Branch Road, Gaithersburg, MD 20899 (entrance at the corner of Muddy Branch Road and East Drive). The second federal vaccination site is located at the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History at 10th St. & Constitution Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20560. Depending on place of employment, federal employees may be able to choose to receive their vaccination at either the NIST or Museum of Natural History location. Others may be required to get their vaccination at a specific federal site. Your first and second shots must be scheduled at the same vaccination site.

When driving to NIST, plan approximately 20 minutes of extra time to get through the security checkpoints at the visitor entrance (Gate F). Once you clear security, you will follow signs to the parking lot just outside the vaccination site. Parking is free.

If driving to the Museum of Natural History, note that there is no public parking facility. On-street meter parking options are available but please be advised to carefully check the days and hours of enforcement posted on the parking meters and curbside signs. A few [nearby commercial lots and garages](#) may have available parking. You must pay for your own parking. The vaccination site entrance is located on Madison Drive NW (across the street from the National Mall).

Security will check individual access at

- Gate F (driving on); and
- Gate A (NIST Metro Shuttle).

COVID-19
Vaccination
Parking

COVID-19
Vaccination Clinic
Entrance

Road to Parking
Lot and
Vaccination Site

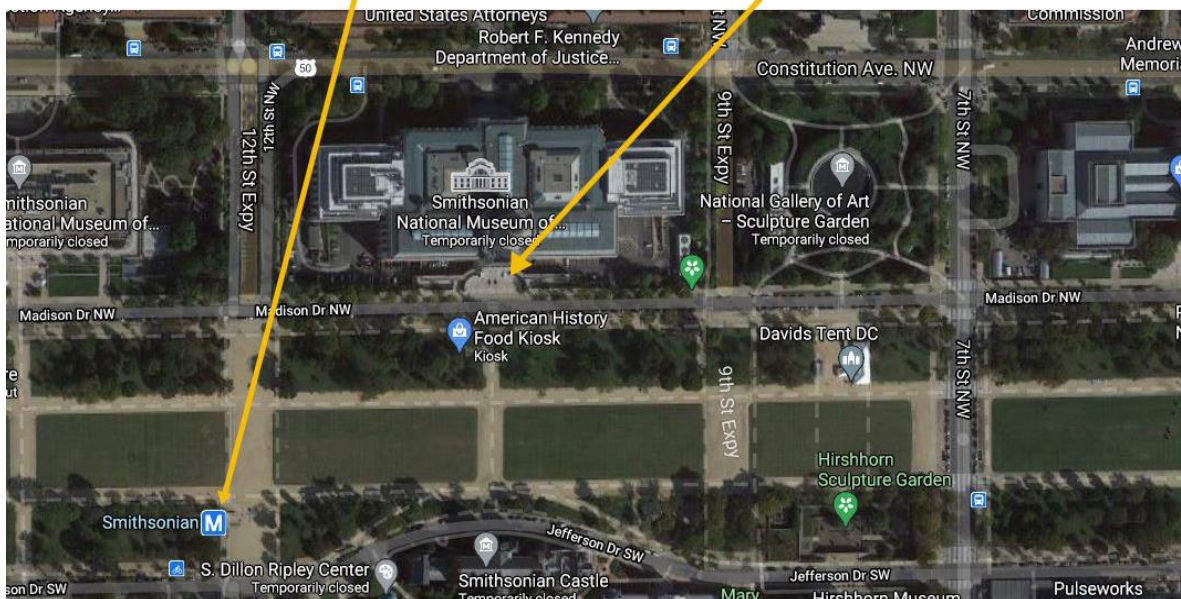
This entrance is only for the
COVID-19 Vaccination Clinic.
All other vehicles must use
Gates A or C.



Map of NIST Campus

Smithsonian Metro
Station
(Use Mall Exit)

COVID-19
Vaccination Center
Entrance



Map of Museum of Natural History

Are the NIST campus and Museum of Natural History accessible via Metro?

The NIST campus is accessible via the Red Line to Shady Grove. NIST provides shuttle service to and from the Shady Grove Metro Station. Visitors using Metro can meet the NIST shuttle at the east side of the Shady Grove Metro Station at "Bus Bay C". The shuttle runs daily at 15 and 45 minutes past the hour

from 6:45 am to 6:10 pm. Please plan accordingly to arrive at your appointment on time. No shuttle service is available on weekends.

The Museum of Natural History is accessible via the Smithsonian Metro station, which is located on the Blue, Orange, and Silver lines. The closest metro along the Green and Yellow line is Archives/Navy Memorial. The closest Red line station is Metro Center. The vaccination site entrance is located on Madison Drive NW (across the street from the National Mall).

Can I take Uber/Lyft/Personal Driver/Taxi to NIST?

Taxis, rideshares, and personal drivers are not allowed on the NIST campus. Have your driver drop you off at Gate A: NIST Visitor Center, located at 100 Bureau Drive. There is a 10-minute walk to the vaccination site from Gate A.

What are the vaccination hours of operation at each site?

The NIST federal vaccination site will administer vaccines between 9 am and 5 pm, Monday through Friday. The Museum of Natural History site will administer vaccines between 9 am and 3 pm, Monday through Friday. Saturday and Sunday appointments will be offered at both locations only if the demand meets the need. You will select the site location, date, and time of your appointment during the registration process.

Depending on place of employment, federal employees may be able to choose to receive their vaccination at either the NIST or Museum of Natural History location. Others may be required to get their vaccination at a specific federal site. Your first and second shots must be scheduled at the same vaccination site.

Which vaccine is being administered at the federal vaccination sites?

The Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine will be administered at both the NIST and Museum of Natural History vaccination sites. The Pfizer vaccine is administered intramuscularly as a series of two doses three weeks apart. The Pfizer Vaccine will be administered as prescribed in the [Emergency Use Authorization \(EUA\) of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine to Prevent Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID 19\).](#)

What do I bring with me on the day of my vaccination?

On the day of your scheduled vaccination, bring photo identification (e.g., driver's license, passport, or government-issued PIV card) and the completed pre-vaccination questionnaire sent to you through VAMS. Under the REAL ID Act of 2005, federal agencies, including NIST, can only accept REAL ID-compliant state driver's licenses.

Wear clothing that makes the upper arm easily accessible to the vaccinator – short sleeves, no sleeves, or easy to slide off the shoulder. A face mask without a valve must always be properly worn while at the vaccination sites. If you forget your face mask, please tell the security officer at the NIST entrance gate or the Museum of Natural History entrance door and one will be provided.

Please arrive no earlier than 15 minutes prior to your scheduled appointment. There are no waiting rooms available at either site. If you cannot make your scheduled appointment, please cancel the appointment through VAMS. If you require special accommodations for your scheduled appointment at NIST, please call 301-975-5777 once you arrive on site. The Museum of Natural History is fully ADA

compliant; guest services is on site should additional assistance be needed.

Can I still get vaccinated if I have a fever or am exhibiting signs of illness the day of my appointment?

If you are exhibiting any signs of COVID-19, please reschedule your appointment for a different day.

How do I schedule my appointment for a second dose of vaccine?

All federal employees receiving their first dose of vaccine through a federal vaccination site will be scheduled for a follow-up appointment upon receiving their initial vaccine onsite. The second dose will be administered at the same federal vaccination site at the first dose. You cannot receive your first and second doses at different federal vaccination sites. Employees who have already received a first dose through a state or local vaccination program should continue with their second dose through that program.

I already received my first dose of COVID-19 vaccine at another location. Are employees eligible to receive second doses at one of the federal vaccination sites if they received their first dose at another location?

If you already received your first dose of COVID-19 vaccine at a non-federal vaccination site, schedule your second shot at that same location as your first dose. The federal vaccination sites are only available to employees needing both the first and second shots.

For any other questions, please reach out to ASPR.COVID@hhs.gov.